#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLI-

CATION OF : MACDOUGALL, ET. AL.

SERIAL NO. :

: GRP. ART UNIT:

FILED

: EXAMINER:

FOR

MICROPOROUS FILMS HAVING REDUCED DIELECTRIC

**CONSTANTS** 

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Subsequent to the allowance of elected Claims 1-17 of the parent application S.N. 09/518,955 filed 3 March 2000, Applicant has filed the accompanying divisional application to further prosecute non-elected Claims 18-26.

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 4 under the subtitle, "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" of this divisional application, insert the following sentence; --This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/518,955 filed 3 March 2000.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-17.

Amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. A ceramic film produced by the process of producing a ceramic film on a substrate, said process comprising:

preparing a film-forming fluid comprising a ceramic precursor, a catalyst, a surfactant and solvent(s);

depositing said film-forming fluid on said substrate; and

removing said solvent(s) from said film-forming fluid on said substrate to produce said ceramic film on said substrate,

wherein said ceramic film has a dielectric constant below 2.3, and a metal content of less than 500 ppm.

### **REMARKS**

Applicant is filing this divisional application to further prosecute non-elected Claims 18-26 of the parent application. The fee for filing this divisional application should be calculated after cancellation of original Claims 1-17. No change in inventorship is necessary. Claim 18 has been amended to recite the product by the process of Claim 1 of the parent case, but in independent format, as illustrated in the Addendum hereto.

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a copy of the parent application, a copy of the executed Declaration, as well as Form 1449 and prior art, Form PTO/SB/05 and Form PTO/SB/17 to charge the filing fee, as well as any additional charges or credits to the identified Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey L. Chase

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attachment: Application

Declaration

Form PTO-1449 & prior art

Form PTO/SB/05 Form PTO/SB/17

# **ADDENDUM**

18. A ceramic film produced by the process of [Claim 1] <u>producing a ceramic film</u> on a substrate, said process comprising:

preparing a film-forming fluid comprising a ceramic precursor, a catalyst, a surfactant and solvent(s);

depositing said film-forming fluid on said substrate; and

removing said solvent(s) from said film-forming fluid on said substrate to produce said ceramic film on said substrate,

wherein said ceramic film has a dielectric constant below 2.3, and a metal content of less than 500 ppm.